

## Thanks Giving Appeal '86

# Buildings manager stresses need for long-term planning

By Karen M. Franz

Since joining the diocesan staff in April of 1985, James Magee, manager of diocesan buildings and properties, has clearly made his mark. His accomplishments range from renovations to the Pastoral Center, to the creation of new offices for the Courier-Journal, to a forthcoming project to assist parishes in planning for the future of their buildings.

In the summer of 1985, 33,000 square feet of space within the Pastoral Center were renovated to provide offices for 10 diocesan departments that had been located elsewhere in the diocese and to accommodate new working arrangements for the Pastoral Center staff.

The space had been vacated one year earlier when the School of the Holy Childhood moved to its own facility in Henrietta. The consolidation of diocesan departments within the 1150 Buffalo Road facility was designed to reduce administrative costs the diocese incurred to maintain the unoccupied space, and to pay rent and utilities at other locations.

Magee and his staff coordinated the renovations, which involved reconstructing parts of all three floors of the building.

Just as the Pastoral Center project was completed, Magee turned his efforts toward planning and design of a new endeavor. In the spring of this year, subcontractors began removing heavy institutional kitchen equipment — carryovers from the days of St. Andrew's Seminary and Kings Preparatory School — from the first floor's west wing. With new walls, lighting and electrical systems, the space became home to the Courier-Journal staff in July.

According to Mary Bittner, Courier-Journal office manager, Magee, his staff and the subcontractors "took an ugly kitchen and turned

it into a beautiful, warm, pleasant working environment."

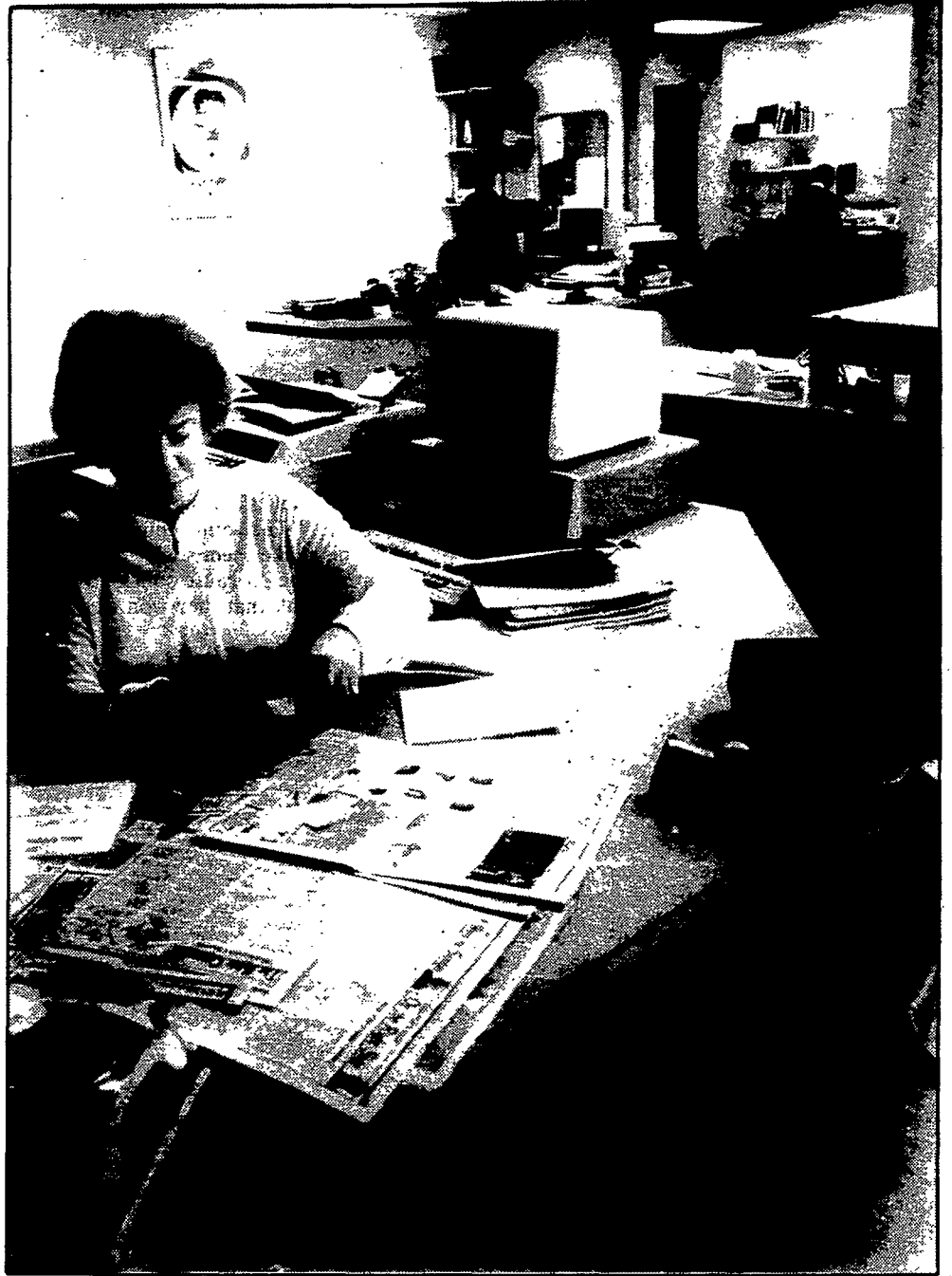
Now that the major projects at the Pastoral Center are finished, Magee is developing means by which to reach out to parishes in need of advice on their buildings. A few rural parishes have consulted him on an individual basis, and he is now working with Father John Mulligan, director of the Division of Urban Services, and architect Richard Randall, AIA, to design a survey on urban parishes' buildings and their maintenance costs.

Once fed into the diocesan computer, the data compiled through the survey will allow parishes to compare their energy costs with those of other parishes of similar size. Magee also hopes to provide parishes with estimates on the life expectancies of current structural components and on the cost of replacements.

"It's going to help them to start planning for the future," Magee said. Based on the results of the computer analysis, parishes will be able to set priorities on capital improvements and plan ahead, rather than having to raise emergency funds when an old roof unexpectedly gives way, he added.

"The parish evaluation is going to be big," said Magee, who previously worked for six years as manager of buildings and properties at the Harley School. He hopes the forthcoming program will assist parishes in assessing their long-term needs and in deciding whether to develop energy-management programs or five-year plans. "It all depends on where you want to go," he said.

"These are obviously a lot of my goals and ideas," Magee concluded. "Parishes should know that these things are available. It's not a full-blown concept yet, but the people who need help should call us."



Jeff Goulding/Courier Journal  
Courier-Journal office manager Mary Bittner (foreground) enjoys working in the paper's new offices in the west wing of the Pastoral Center.

## Choirs of 10 religious congregations to perform in concert benefiting Christmas basket program

Choirs from 10 Rochester religious congregations will participate in an Advent concert entitled, "Many Voices of Christmas," which is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 330 Wellington Ave., Rochester.

The concert will include Christmas music of a number of religious traditions. Choral

groups slated to perform are: Aeon Baptist, Graves CME, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Augustine, St. Monica, Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Stephen's Episcopal, Trinity-Emmanuel Presbyterian, West Avenue Methodist and Westminster Presbyterian churches.

The choirs will perform together in a special finale, arranged and conducted by

Alvin Paris, to express their unity in a spirit of the joy of Christmas.

Tickets for the concert are available at the participating churches or can be obtained at the door. Admission is free, although an offering will be taken.

Proceeds will be used by SWEM Community Services, Inc., to provide Christmas

baskets and to feed the hungry throughout the year.

Parking will be available at the Wilson Magnet School lot, between Genesee Street and Wellington Avenue. The parking lot will be supervised by the 19th Ward PAC-TAC, and shuttle transportation between the parking lot and the church will be provided for those in need of this service.

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